

# ANA PHOTO CONTEST



**T**he Association of Naval Aviation's photo contest is open to everyone except the staffs of the ANA, *Wings of Gold* magazine and *Naval Aviation News*. The ONLY requirement is that the subject matter pertain to Naval Aviation. Submissions can be in black and white or color, slides or prints of any dimension. Please include the photographer's complete name and address, and PHOTO CAPTION.

For deadline and submission details call 703-960-2490. Mail photographs to: Association of Naval Aviation, 2550 Huntington Ave., Suite 201, Alexandria VA 22303-1499.

Cash Awards: Bimonthly—\$100. Annual—First, \$350; Second, \$250; Third, \$150.

Above, PH3 Alex Witte's bimonthly winner captured an F/A-18 *Hornet* "hanging" on the flight deck's edge during a launch from *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) in the Indian Ocean in October 2000. Below, PHC Todd Cichonowicz won a bimonthly competition with this shot of a Fighter Squadron 32 F-14 *Tomcat* breaking the sound barrier during an air power demonstration aboard *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75) in September 2000 off the Virginia coast.





By Cdr. Peter B. Mersky, USNR (Ret.)

Boyne, Walter J., and Philip Handleman, eds. *Brassey's Air Combat Reader, Historic Feats and Aviation Legends*. Batsford Brassey, Inc., 4380 MacArthur Blvd. NW, Washington, DC 20007. 1999. 336 pp. \$24.95.

Collections of published aviation literature appear periodically, providing a sampling of experiences and events usually in the first person by renowned aviators. This effort is edited by two knowledgeable writers with lots of firsthand aviation experience. There is a relatively small number of selections dealing with Naval Aviation, but these are well chosen. Surprisingly, there are no photos. It would have been good to see pictures of the aircraft and the authors whose words form the core of the book.

There are only occasional errors. For instance, the



An F-8 *Crusader* from Fighter Squadron 162 on board *Oriskany* (CVA 34) fires rockets over South Vietnam in support of ground forces in 1966.

U.S. Navy's first ace, Lt. David S. Ingalls, actually flew with the Royal Air Force, newly created from the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service; and the Lafayette Escadrille began operations in 1916, not 1915. Also, in his introduction, Handleman doesn't mention the seminal role that the First Yale Unit played in forming the Naval Air Reserve.

The scope runs from WW I to the 1991 Persian Gulf War, ending with a chapter highlighting "The Art and Science of Air Warfare," with a distinct philosophical bent instead of specific experience.

The sections on Korea and Vietnam are each short, using only one story about naval air. The Korea chapter avails itself of Donald Engen's autobiography *Wings and*

*Warriors* (Smithsonian Press, Washington, DC, 1997), and is particularly welcome because of this colorful aviator's experiences, including having flown some of the first combat sorties of the war. The naval air selection in the Vietnam chapter comes from Zalin Grant's *Over the Beach* (Norton, New York, 1986), highlighting the pilots of Carrier Air Wing 16 aboard *Oriskany* (CVA 34) from 1965 to 1967.

The two-story section on the Middle East offers a selection from an autobiography by one of Israel's early helicopter pilots and focuses on the 1967 Six Day War. The second story comes from an SR-71 pilot who describes a perilous mission over Libya. The Gulf War is represented by only three selections, with no Navy or Marine Corps material. One of the stories comes from the government-published Air Power Survey, which

received some criticism for its occasional lack of accuracy.

Concerns noted, this is an interesting collection of excerpts.

Holmes, Tony. *Supercarriers: Naval Aviation in Action*.

Osprey, UK and USA, PO Box 130, Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0130. 2000. 144 pp. Ill. \$24.95.

Tony Holmes has had enjoyable experiences aboard U.S. carriers over the years, seeing many ships when they visited his hometown of Perth, Australia. This transplanted Aussie bases out of London now, and his books depicting American naval air power are paeans to those serving aboard each flattop he visits. Holmes displays an in-depth knowledge of the Navy

organization, and he also knows how to handle a camera.

This book's lengthy captions are full of details on individual aircraft careers and equipment, and are augmented by comments from flight crew members. Three carriers are featured: *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63), *Nimitz* (CVN 68) and *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72). One aspect of many of Holmes' photos is the wear and tear displayed by various aircraft, something that modelers will like. Serving in areas such as the Pacific and Persian Gulf puts a special brand of toughness on each aircraft.

The book's layout takes full advantage of great color photography, and it displays various patches and insignia. Superb photos round out a great package showing carrier air at its best.